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JAN 29 2008

Appl. No. 10/506,489  
Amndt. Dated January 29, 2008  
Reply to Office Action of October 29, 2007

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The Office action of October 29, 2007 has been thoroughly studied. Accordingly, the changes presented herein for the application, considered together with the following remarks, are believed to be sufficient to place the application into condition for allowance.

By the present amendment, claims 7-10 and 13-16 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Entry of the changes to the claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-6, 11 and 12 are pending in this application.

Claims 7-10 and 13-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese reference No. 2001-286743 in view of Japanese reference No. 10-052631 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,355,730 to Kozawa et al.

On page 2 of the Office Action the Examiner has indicated that claims 1, 3-6, 11 and 12 are presently allowable.

Inasmuch as claims 7-10 and 13-16 have been canceled herein and the only claims that remain pending are allowed claims 1, 3-6, 11 and 12, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Entry of the present amendments to the claims and an early allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

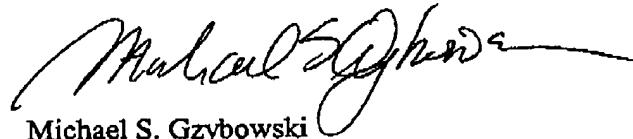
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It is believed that the above represents a complete response to the Official Action and reconsideration is requested.

If upon consideration of the above, the Examiner should feel that there remain outstanding issues in the present application that could be resolved; the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' patent counsel at the telephone number given below to discuss such issues.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136 is hereby made. Please charge the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 12-2136 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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